

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 MMO-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 ABF-01 CU-04
PER-01 HEW-04 /077 W
-----126802 121019Z /14

R 120900Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8892

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0048

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LA
SUBJECT: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN LAOS

REF: A 77 STATE 295476, B 77 STATE 291277

1. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN LAOS
(REF A) SUMMARIZES THE STANDARD RANGE OF OUR POLICY
INTERESTS IN LAOS AND, IN GENERAL, PLACES THEM IN A
LOGICAL ORDER OF PRIORITY. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WOULD
LIKE TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. THE EMBASSY QUESTIONS THE WORDING OF THE FIRST
OBJECTIVE, " MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS WITH LAOS ON A
BASIS NEARLY 'NORMAL' AS POSSIBLE," AND ITS PLACEMENT,
AS WORDED, "AS THE FIRST PRIORITY." THIS WORDING AND
PLACEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT WE WOULD BE
WILLING TO SUBORDINATE OTHER CONCERNS TO THE OBJECTIVE
OF STAYING HERE. THE SECTION POINTS OUT THAT WE SEEK
RELATIONS ON A "NORMAL" BASIS, BUT THIS QUALIFICATION
MIGHT NOT PROTECT THE MISSION FROM INORDINATE PRESSURE
SO LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO LEAVE IT TO THE LAO TO DEFINE
WHAT IS "NORMAL." MOREOVER, A WILLINGNESS TO PAY THE
PRICE IN VIENTIANE MAY SET A BAD PRECEDENT FOR

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ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER MISSIONS IN INDOCHINA. THE
EMBASSY'S CONCERN MIGHT BE ALLAYED BY AMENDING SUB-
PARAGRAPH TWO OF SECTION 1 TO READ, " WITHIN THE LIMITS
OF DIGNITY, ADJUST TO LOCAL CONDITIONS..."

3. THE EMBASSY AGREES WITH THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
STATED IN SECTION 2 BUT SUGGESTS THAT A THIRD PARA-

GRAPH BE INCLUDED THAT REFLECTS U.S. CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN LAOS.

4. THE EMBASSY HAD NO SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES STATED IN SECTIONS 3 AND

4.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780017-1299
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780168/aaaacfwb.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4635fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3782212
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN LAOS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4635fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014